

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00925 270857Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 0925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, ECRE, OVIP, KU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDER-
SECRETARY TO US

REF: (A) KUWAIT 0791 (B) KUWAIT 0497

1. PRESENTLY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS UNDERSECRETARY, BADR SAUD ABDULRAZZAK VISITING SELECTED EUROPEAN CITIES TO STUDY THEIR OLYMPIC STADIUMS INCLUDING THOSE IN MUNICH AND HELSINKI. KUWAIT HAD PLANNED MASSIVE SPORTS COMPLEX IN MID-SIXTIES AND AWARDED DESIGN CONTRACT TO JAPANESE ARCHITECT DR. TANGE BUT SHELVED PLANS FOR LACK OF FUNDS.

2. MONEY IS NOW INCLUDED IN NEXT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TO GO AHEAD WITH PROJECT AND WHOLLY NEW DESIGN BEING SOUGHT ALTHOUGH TANGE MAY BE RETAINED TO DESIGN NEW STADIUM. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT BADR SAUD SEE U.S. STADIUMS AND BELIEVE AIR-CONDITIONED COMPLEXES IN HOUSTON AND NEW ORLEANS SHOULD BE MUST STOPS GIVEN KUWAIT'S EXTREMELY HOT CLIMATE FOR ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR. CHAIRMAN OF DANIEL, MANN, JOHNSON, MENDENHALL ALSO SUGGESTED VISIT TO STADIUM THEY PLANNED IN DENVER.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO URGE BADR SAUD (WHO IN EARLY 50'S WAS U.S. EMBASSY EMPLOYEE) TO VISIT THE U.S. BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT COMMERCE AND STATE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO RE FUNDING, ORGANIZING ITINERARY, AND ARRANGING TOURS AND APPOINTMENTS BEFORE WE MAKE ANY APPROACH.

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4. COMMENT: KUWAITIS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BUDGETED AT LEAST \$170 MILLION FOR PROJECT AND THEY ALMOST ALWAYS UNDERESTIMATE EXPENSES. U.S. AIR-CONDITIONED STADIUMS SEEM IDEAL FOR KUWAIT AND COULD MEAN MAJOR SALES OF U.S. AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT WHICH DOMINATES LOCAL MARKET AS WELL AS POTENTIAL CONTRACTS FOR U.S. DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND SUPPLY FIRMS IF KUWAITIS OPT FOR AIR-CONDITIONED DOMED STADIUM ALA ASTRODOME.
STOLTZFUS

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